AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT English Men of War Have been Taken, or otherwise Lost, during the present WAR.

WITH SOME

OBSERVATIONS

Upon a Late

Printed Paper concerning that Matter.

In the SAVOY,
Printed by EDWARD JONES, 1696.

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AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT English Men of War Have been Taken, or otherwise Loſt, during the Preſent WAR, &c.

THERE having very lately crept abroad a certain printed Paper, impoſing upon the World a Liſt of what *Engliſh* Men of War have been taken by the Enemy, from the beginning of the preſent War, to the Firſt of *October* 1695, compared with thoſe they have Loſt within

that Time; I think my ſelf obliged to undeceive ſuch Perſons, who ſhall give themſelves the Trouble to peruſe the ſaid Paper, by laying open, not only the Partiality, but Ignorance of its Author, in the Buſineſs he has taken in hand: And in order thereunto, I ſhall begin with the Liſt of the Ships of War he ſays the Enemy have Loſt, the whole Number whereof he makes but Five; though 'tis notoriouſly known, and allowed of, by the Enemy themſelves, That in the Year 1693, Fourteen of their Capital Ships were deſtroyed by our Fleet, under the Command of Admiral *Ruſſell*, at *Cherbrook* and *La Hogue*, Two of which were mounted each with One hundred and four Guns, and the others from Ninety to Fifty ſix, carrying in the whole One thouſand and ſixty, beſides Two of Sixty Guns each, which were ſaid to be ſunk in Fight; which though, on their behalf, he induſtriouſly avoids the mentioning, yet in the Liſt of our Naval Loſſes, he not only gives an Account of thoſe Ships the Enemy have taken from us, but ſqueezes in all ſuch as have been loſt by bad Weather, or other Accidents; and even thoſe very

Ships,

Ships, and the ſmalleſt Veſſels alſo, which (in regard of their Age and Crazineſs) have (after being Caſt) been either Sold, or Sunk for defence of our Docks or Graving-Places from the Sea; and though the Guns belonging to thoſe Ships and Veſſels were taken out and placed in His Majeſty's Stores before they were diſpoſed of, yet he Sums them up among the Number of thoſe which have been really Loſt.

But that it may the more plainly appear, how many Ships of each Rate the Enemy have both Taken from Us, and Deſtroyed, during this long War, I think it neceſſary to put down the following Account, *viz.*

Rate.	*N°.*	
3 —	2	
4 —	6	
5 —	12	Two of which were Fireſhips, and one of them a Ship formerly taken from the Enemy.
6 —	13	Three of which were Ketches, one a Tartan, and another a ſmall Advice-boat.
	33	

Which

Which being compared with the Ships we have Taken and Deſtroyed of theirs, it will appear, that though an equal Number have not fallen into our Hands, yet conſidering the Magnitude of the Ships, and conſequently their Guns, amounting to almoſt the ſame Number as ours, (moſt of which were very ſmall,) neither the Enemy, nor the Author, have any great Reaſon to value themſelves upon the Advantage they have of Us in this Particular.

As to the Number of our Ships which have been Caſt away, I am of Opinion, That when the Length of the War, and the great Numbers of all ſorts of Ships which have been conſtantly kept abroad, (even in the Winter Seaſon, when they muſt unavoidably be expoſed to the greateſt Hazards,) ſhall be duly conſidered, it cannot be reaſonably expected, their Number will prove very ſmall; but, as it is, I have here inſerted an Impartial Account.

What

What Ships of each Rate have been caſt away, or burnt by Accident ſince the beginning of the War.

Rate.	N°.	
2	2	
3	8	
4	6	
5	3	
6	14	*Moſt of them very ſmall Veſſels.*
	33	

In this place I think it not amiſs to obſerve, that as we are obliged to keep conſtantly at Sea great Numbers of Ships both at home and abroad, the Enemy have, for Years paſt, been ſo far from expoſing themſelves to the frequent Dangers attending that Element, as to keep almoſt their whole Strength within their Harbours, contenting themſelves only in carrying on a Piratical

Piratical War; which is the only Reaſon that our accidental Loſſes ſurmount thoſe of theirs. But the Gentleman, againſt whom I have taken up the Cudgels, inſinuating in his Paper his own melancholy Thoughts upon the ſcore of the great Decreaſe of our preſent Naval Strength, to what it was at at the beginning of the War, I have hereunder made a modeſt Account, how that Matter ſtands; by which it will appear, how little Trouble he has been at, to make himſelf Maſter of the Matter wherein he has employ'd his Pen.

Decreaſe ſince the beginning of the War,

Rate.	N°.	
1	1	
2	2	
3		*Increaſe*

Increaſe ſince the beginning of the War.

Rate.	N°.
3	9
4	6
5	19
6	29

It muſt be confeſs'd, that the Loſſes the Merchants have ſuſtained during this War is very conſiderable; But in regard they do at a Time of ſo great Action, and when the Seas are ſo much peſtered with the Enemies Privateers, Trade with almoſt as much Freedom as if there was a ſetled Peace, it is not a matter of Wonder (tho' 'tis much to be lamented,) that their Loſſes have been ſo great; eſpecially when 'tis conſider'd, that they have not only very often ventured without Convoys, but deſerted ſuch Convoys as have been appointed them, ſo ſoon as they came within the ſmell of the Land, in hopes thereby to foreſtall the Markets. And as for the late Loſſes of the *E. India* Com-

 pany,

pany, had they (by the beſt Information I can come at,) been pleaſed to have made thoſe Gentlemen, who ſit at the Helm of our Naval-Force, more privy to their Affairs, I dare be bold to ſay, that much of their Loſſes might very probably have been ſaved, by the timely placing Ships in a proper Station, to have met with their Trade in its Return.

The laſt thing that I think fit to take Notice of is, That in the lamentable Account he gives of the Decreaſe of our Sea-Strength, ſince the beginning of the War, he is altogether a Stranger, (or at leaſt ſeems to be ſo,) that above Twelve of the Ships and Veſſels in his Liſt are ſuch as the French had loſt to us: and he takes a more than ordinary Care to croud in ſuch Fireſhips as have been burnt on Service againſt the Enemy, and to draw the Curtain over the Privateers we have taken from them; the latter whereof, in Reputation to our Sea-Commanders, (who, as well as others, are but too often expoſed to the laſh of ignorant and malicious Tongues and Pens,) I have juſtly numbred One Hundred Eighty Two, Sixty Seven whereof were from Ten Guns to Fifty

Fifty Six, and very few of them under Twenty; besides Ten which were destroy'd between the 10th of *May* 1694, and the first *October* 1695.

January 14,
$169\frac{5}{6}$.

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Fifty Six, and very few of them under Twenty; beſides Ten which were deſtroy'd between the 10th of May 1694. and the firſt October 1695.

January 14.
1696.

F I N I S.

ΦKF
F. Edwards
02/1972

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